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ABSTRACT

This addendum is designed to compensate for Altick's omission of materials by or about black writers in "The Art of Literary Research" and to identify some of the most outstanding public, university, and private library holdings in the United States on American blacks, as well as major Afro-American collections. Major public library holdings include the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and special collections of the New York Public Library of the Performing Arts and the Library of Congress, as well as a number of collections held by other public libraries, state historical societies, and archives. Although the largest and most extensive university collection on American blacks is held by the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, other important holdings are located at Fisk University, the Trevor-Arnett Library at Atlanta University, Yale University Library, the Amistad Research Center archives at Dillard University, the Morris A. Soper Library of Morgan State College, and Tuskegee Institute; several other American universities also hold significant collections. Finally, many valuable collections are held in the private libraries of families and friends of the writers; some private collections have evolved into institutions themselves. A listing of major libraries that maintain collections of noted Afro-American figures includes the names and addresses of 16 institutions. (KM)

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ADDENDUM TO RICHARD D. ALTICKS

CHAPTER SIX

ON

"LIBRARIES"

IN

THE ART OF LITERARY RESEARCH

by

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Addendum to Altick's

Chapter VI

"Black Libraries"

The contribution of Black America to our culture has long been ignored. Of particular concern to literary scholars is the neglect by textbook writers to include a significant amount of materials by or about black writers in their books. Altick's chapter six "Libraries" in The Art of Literary Research, is an example of this negligence. There are notwithstanding Altick's lapse, many Black collections in libraries around the country. This "addendum" will identify some of the most outstanding American public, university and private library holdings on United States Blacks, as well as major Afro-American collections.

Public Library Holdings

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the Research Libraries of New York Public Library consists of over seventy thousand volumes and countless other recordings by and about blacks. In 1926, a Harlem citizen's committee persuaded the Carnegie Corporation to buy the large, important private library on Blacks collected by Arthur A. Schomburg, a Puerto Rican of African descent who lived in New York City. The Schomburg Center contains rare books, manuscripts of slavery and abolition, and thousands of papers, correspondences, gallery proofs, files and other documents on every aspect of black history and culture.

The New York Public Library of the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center has an extensive collection of blacks in music, theatre, dance, films and television. There are special collections on such artists as Marian Anderson, and Scott Joplin, several thousand letters of Pierre Toussaint and scrapbooks of African Model Maurice Hunter.

The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., contains a tremendous amount of black materials in its special collections. The Folk Archives of Black Folk Songs and Tales are in the Library of Congress. Additionally, the special collections of Daniel Murray and the Federal Writer's Projects materials which include thousands of slave narratives are among the Library of Congress' holdings. The papers of Carter G. Woodson, the National Urban League, Arthur B. Spingarn, and Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters are among the valuable collections at the Library of Congress. Perhaps the most important papers of black writers are those of Frederick Douglass. In the 1960's the National Park Service of Washington had custody of the Douglas papers: but, in 1972 they were transferred to the Library of Congress. A new microfilm edition of the Douglass papers is now in preparation.

Historical materials on United States Afro-Americans can be found in the National Archives, also in Washington, D.C. Material on slave-trade; War Records Office data on blacks in the military; Freedmens Bureau files; and, material on Ku Klux Klan investigations and the black press are available in the archives.

In Washington, D.C., the researcher of black literary contributions can locate the papers and files of the Harmon Foundation of New York City, an organization that helped and promoted Afro-American and later African artists from the 1920's until the 1960's. This collection is in the Smithsonian Institution.

New York and Washington do not have exclusive rights to all black collections, however. In Detroit, the public library holds the E. Azalia Hackley Memorial Collection of Negro Music, Dance and Drama. The Vivian G. Harsh collection is housed in the Carter G. Woodson Regional Library of the Chicago Public Library. Important special collections of blacks are also held by the New Bedford, Massachusetts' Free Library; the Library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in Madison; and, the Kansas State Historical in Topeka.

Other materials on black contributions are parts of

the holdings of state historial societies and archives of western states and of the New York Historical Society. The Paul Lawrence Dunbar papers are at the Ohio Historical Society Library of Columbus. The A. Phillip Randolph Institute in New York; and, the Methodist Board of Education in Nashville, Tennessee maintains the minutes of meetings of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society of the Methodist Church, North.

University Library Holdings

Universities in the United States have many holdings on American Blacks. The largest and most extensive collections in this field are held by the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, Washington, D.C. Moorland-Spingarn has more than 125,000 catalogued and recorded items including books, pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers manuscripts, photographs, clippings, musical compositions, phonograph records, and microfilm. Organized as a research library in 1930, the Moorland-Spingarn Center is basically an extensive Lewis Tappan anti-slavery collection augmented by Jesse Moorland's private collections and other purchases and gifts in the area of African materials.

Of especial interest, in addition to the Spingarn collection, are the papers of James T. and John Rapier; Blanche K. Bruce; Kelly Miller; P.B.S. Pinchback; the NAACP; the Grimke family; MordecaiJohnson; and, the Ralph J. Bunche Oral History Collection.

Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, is one of the strongest libraries in the South for study of blacks. Some of Fisk's more outstanding holdings are the John Mercer Langston papers; the Charles S. Johnson papers; over 2,000 volumes of W.E.B. DuBois papers together with some rare manuscripts and files bought in 1961 by then librarian, Arna Bontemps.

Also deposited at Fisk University are about 30,000 pieces of the manuscript materials of novelist and poet Jean Toomer; paintings of the Alfred Stieglitz Collection; the Marcus Garvey papers; and, some Langston Hughes material.

Following the acquisition of 15,000 items from the Henry P. Slaughter Collection, the Trevor-Arnett Library at Atlanta Univesity, Atlanta, Georgia, established a separate Black Collections department. Among its most important holdings is the Contee Cullen Collection. The Atlanta University Library also has material of Thomas Clarkson, a leading British abolitionist.

Yale University Library has an impressive James Weldon Johnson

Memorial Collection of Negro Arts and Letters. It consists largely of manuscripts, typescripts, letters photographs, and other works by contemporary American black authors. The collection includes works of Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson and Richard Wright.

The Amistad Research Center maintains its archives at Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana. There are over 8,000,000 items in this collection which relate basically to the establishment and early histories of many black educational institutions. It also has the personal papers of Raymond Pace Alexander; some Mary M. Bethune papers; and, papers of Contee Cullen, Nurse Mahel K. Staupers, Civil Rights Attorney Alexander P. Tureaud and the John Wesley Dobbs Family.

The Morris A. Soper Library of Morgan State College, Baltimore, Maryland, contains a sizable body of the Emmett O. Scott Collection on the history of blacks from 1900-1951; the black explorer Matthew Henson collection; and many of the papers of William Stanley Brathwaite.

Tuskegee Institute in Alabama has material in Records and Research, founded in 1908 by Monore N. Work, who compiled and published nine editions of the Negro Year

Book. The George Washington Carver Museum is also located at Tuskeegee.

Other universities with significant collections on blacks include the Collis P. Huntington Memorial Library at Hampton Institute, Hampton Virginia, which contains a collection of several hundred scrapbooks of clippings on almost every conceivable subject from 1898 to 1920; the Columbia University collections of Alexander Gumby on blacks, the J.G. Phelps Stokes Collection, and the papers of Whitney M. Young Jr.; Texas Southern University, Houston Texas, has the Charles F. Heartman Negro Collection; and, Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida houses the Mary McLeod Bethune documents and private papers.

Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York; Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; the University of Florida Libraries, Gainesville; and, the Talladega College Library, Talladega Alabama, all contain moderately extensive black collections. The Martin Luther King Jr. papers are currently at Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts but are to be moved (if they have not already) to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center on the Morehouse College campus in Atlanta, Georgia.

American Private Library Holdings

Many extremely valuable collections of important black figures are held by private libraries. The John C. Dancy papers are held by John D. Dancy Jr., of Detroit and Mrs. Lillian Dancy Reid of Salisbury, North Carolina. They Handy family is in possession of the W.C. Handy papers in New Rochelle and Mount Vernon, New York.

The Hall Johnson manuscripts and papers, the papers of Model Maurice Hunter; and Middleton A. Harris, author of A Negro History Tour of Manhattan and The Black Book, are all in the holdings of their respective families and/or friends.

Some private collections have evolved into institutions themselves. The Helen Armstead Johnson Foundation for Theatre Research, in the Chelsea Hotel, has a vast collection on blacks in the theatre. James Van Der Zee's huge photograph collection of New York blacks in the twentieth century is at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City; and, the Hatch/Billops Collection is at the Hatch/Billops Studio in New York City.

Papers and other items by such blacks as Hupert Delany, Ralph Bunche, Lorraine Hansberry, Eubie Blake, Thurgood Marshall, Horace Mann Bond, and Adam Clayton Powell are still among the holdings of private collections although many of these holdings are expected to be placed in public libraries at some future time.

Major Afro-American Collections

Listed below are some of the major libraries that maintain collections of noted Afro-American figures:

Amistad Research Center
Dillard University
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122

Atlanta University
Trevor Arnett Library
273 Chestnut Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30314

Chicago Public Library
Vivian G. Harsh Collection on Afro-American History
and Literature
Carter G. Woodson Regional Library
9525 South Halstead Street
Chicago, Illinois 60628

Columbia University Libraries
Rare Book and Manuscript Library
801 Butler Library
New York, New York 10027

Detroit Public Library
5201 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48202

Fisk University
Special Collections
Library
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Hampton Institute
Collis P. Huntington Memorial Library
Hampton, Virginia 23668

Howard University
Moorland-Spingarn Research Center
Founders Library
2400 6th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20059

Martin Luther King, Jr. Center Library-Archives
671 Beckwith Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30314

New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
103 West 135th Street
New York, New York 10030

Tuskegee Institute
ollis Burke Frissell Library
Tuskegee, Alabama 36088

University of Massachusetts
University of Massachusetts Archives
W.E.B. DuBois Collection
University Library
Amherst, Massachusetts 01003

U.S. Library of Congress
10 First Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20540

U.S. General Services Administration
National Archives and Records Service
Washington National Records Center
Washington, D.C. 20409

Western States Black Research Center
3617 Mont Clair Street
Los Angeles, California 90018

Yale University
The James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection of
Negro Arts and Letters
The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
New Haven, Connecticut 06520